SAN FRANCISCO MARITIME NATIONAL PARK ASSOCIATION

SCUTTLEBUTT

News & Events: April, 2014

Upcoming Events & Lectures:

- **Quarterly Members' Tour: Aquatic Park and Historic Bathhouse**
  Join us **Saturday, April 12th** for this intimate and insightful members' event! Our Ranger-led tour begins at the Visitor's Center (Argonaut Hotel) with a light continental breakfast before continuing through the Aquatic Park and ending in the Historic Bathhouse (Museum Building). This is a great opportunity to connect with like-minded local members and dive deeper into the history of the various facilities at the Maritime National Park.

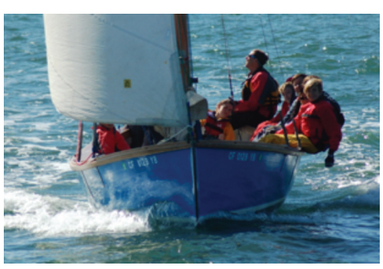
To RSVP, get information or dates about upcoming Members' Tours, or to join the Association, contact Kelly Keever at (415) 561-6662 ext 30 or kkeever@maritime.org. **We look forward to seeing you there!**

The interior of General Harrison*, (one of the many Gold Rush era ships buried under San Francisco's Financial District), showing the midships area of the hull, burned to the waterline, and exposed during excavation in September, 2001. (Photo by James Delgado)*

- **Lost Ships of San Francisco**
  Join maritime archaeologist James Delgado in a visual exploration of the amazing stories of our area's colorful maritime past, as seen through some of San Francisco's lost ships and shipwrecks, including the latest discovery of a sunken ship!

Thursday, April 24, at Bay Theater at Aquarium of the Bay (Pier 39). Reception at 5:30, Program at 6:30. Presented by The Bay Institute and Aquarium of the Bay Film and Lecture Series. For tickets, go to http://lostships.eventbrite.com

New! Summer Camp Offered This Summer! Register Online Today!



Discover San Francisco Bay! During these one-week camps, kids have a chance to experience San Francisco Bay through the eyes of a Sailor and a Scientist. Campers go rowing in whaleboats, learn about sailing and navigation, test water samples and explore bay mud. The week includes a fun filled trip to the World War II Submarine USS *Pampanito* and an exciting day sail aboard the historic scow schooner *Alma*. So sign aboard for a week of unforgettable adventure!

To register, go to: http://www.maritime.org/edu/SummerCamps2014.htm
Or call our Education Office: (415) 292-6664

Alma is back from Dry Dock!

Our historic scow schooner *Alma* has just returned from her annual "shave and haircut" at the Bay Ship and Yacht facility in Alameda! Built in 1891 and rebuilt in 1991, Alma is our only historic vessel that is Coast Guard Certified to carry passengers on the Bay. Each year during the winter months, *Alma* is completely down-rigged so that she can be cleaned, parts can be replaced, sails can be mended, and she can be given a fresh coat of paint. Most of the work is done by our park volunteers, under the watchful eye of the Captain, of course! At the dock we can remove the sails and spars, climb aloft to inspect the top of the mast, and service the engine and generator that help give us an edge on that famous SF Bay current. What we can't do at the dock is a full inspection of the bottom planking to look for rot. So, we sent her on down the estuary for the professionals to have a look.

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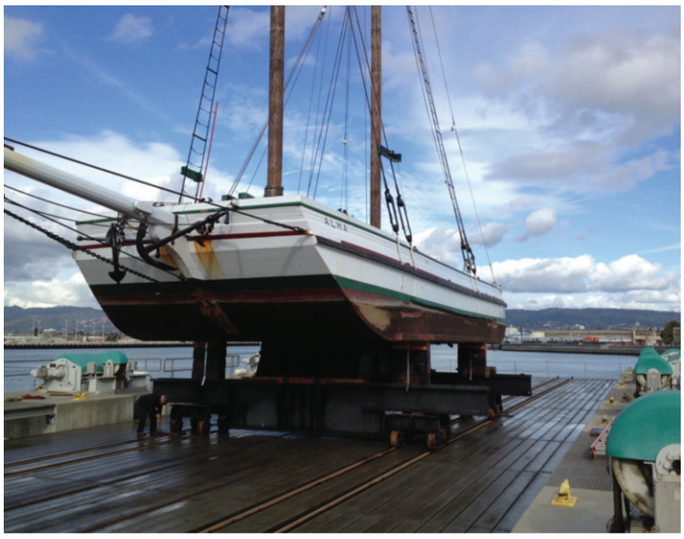
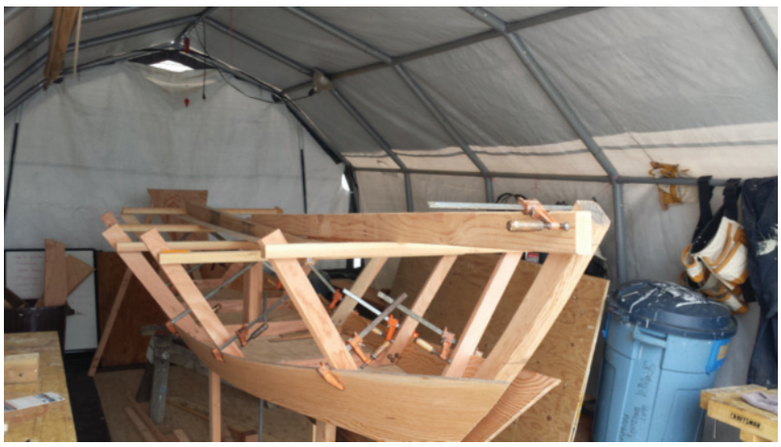
(Continued from other side)

This picture is a great view of *Alma*'s unique flat bottom, which enabled her to sail far up into the delta before the river was dredged. She has a keel, just like any wooden boat, but it only protrudes a few inches below the rest of the flush planking on *Alma*'s underside. Before the hull can be thoroughly examined, the old bottom paint needs to be removed in an environmentally safe manner. Next the crew can inspect planking, propellers, steering gear, and exhaust systems. This year, her check-up went smoother than ever, and a fresh coat of bottom paint went on before *Alma* was splashed down, ready for her next year of adventure on the Bay.



Reflections on the Youth Boat Building Semester: Part II



Our Youth Boat Building class has now met for 8 Mondays and Fridays, and we have 8 more to go before our launch on Cinco de Mayo, just after lunch, on the pocket beach at the entrance to Hyde St. Pier. We've just celebrated the halfway point of the semester by fitting the garboards for our 15ft. Bank Dory. The garboards are the bottom-most planks, and the first ones to be attached, and the moment when they are finally fitted is an exciting one for a couple of reasons. From a boat builder's perspective, it's a milestone that feels very much like cresting a hill, or rounding the horn, so to speak. Up to that point the work consists of a lot of very fine calculations, measurements, bevel-finding, mental 3D modeling, drafting (called lofting, as it was usually done in the loft of the boat shop), and careful, precise assembly. Before you can attach any planks, you have to make sure that the bottom, stem, transom, and all frames are both fabricated and assembled to extremely precise specifications—tolerances, as we call them, of at most an eighth of an inch—and that all of these pieces are joined and fastened plumb, level, symmetrical, and fair. It's often a job of seeking averages between all factors, as when one part is out of alignment it affects the entire boat. These components will provide the skeleton of the boat around which the skin of the boat, or planks, will be wrapped, and so they must be built with a high level of precision. It's quite a "lofty" undertaking.

For the educator who is using boat building as a means to teach otherwise disengaged students mathematics, science, and work ethic, it's a milestone for another reason: this is often the first moment when your students can actually see what it is that they're building. When the garboards go on, the boat actually starts to look like a boat for the first time. The day you hang these first planks, you can hear students exclaim, "oh, now I see it!," or "hey, it's starting to look like a boat!" or, my favorite, "oooooh, that's what we've been building!" It all comes together, and all those weeks of measuring, multiplying and dividing fractions, double checking bevels, and making sure every part is plumb and level—or, in math speak, parallel or perpendicular to either a radius or a tangent to the earth—finally pay off. Boat building offers many powerful lessons for these students and this one, seeing that persistence, patience, and hard work actually do pay off in the end, is perhaps one of the most important lessons for these students to learn.

– Glenn Howe, Living History Program Manager